Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SP-02 AID-05 EB-07 NSC-05

CIEP-01 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-01 OMB-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04

SIL-01 L-02 /079 W

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R 031150Z MAR 75

FM AMCONSUL LUANDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3297

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMCONSUL CAPETOWN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PDEV AO ECON

SUBJECT: GOVERNMENT WORKS ON ECONOMIC GUIDELINES

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

1. I CALLED ON THE MINISTER OF ECONOMY ON FEBRUARY 28. HE SAID THAT THE GREATEST NEED IN ANGOLA AT THIS TIME IS TO RESTORE CONFIDENCE IN THE ECONOMIC SECTOR AND THAT THE BEST MEANS TO DO THIS IS TO ESTABLISH GUIDELINES THAT WILL ALLOW ENTREPRENEURS AND OTHERS TO KNOW WHAT IS IN STORE FOR THEM, NOT DURING THE TRANSITION PERIOD ALONE, BUT FOR THE NEXT FIVE YEARS. A DRAFT HAS BEEN PREPARED AND IS NOW BEING STUDIED THROUGHOUT THE GOVERNMENT.

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2. THE MINISTER BELIEVES THAT THE CORNER HAS BEEN TURNED IN TERMS

OF GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION AND THAT THE LIBERATION GROUPS HAVE STARTED TO WORK IN HARNESS. THE FIRST VISIBLE EVIDENCE OF THIS, HE SAID, WAS THE DECISION TO GO INTO THE PORTS AND ELIMINATE THE BACKLOG BY GETTING THE WORKERS TO INCREASE THEIR PRODUCTIVITY. THE WORKERS WERE CONSULTED, RECOGNIZED THE NEED AND HAVE AGREED TO COOPERATE. ALMEIDA HAS SEEN THAT THERE IS GOOD WILL AND COOPERATION AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS. WHAT MUST BE DONE NOW IS TO COMMUNICATE THIS FEELING TO THE LOWER ECHELONS.

- 3. ALMEIDA SAID MONEY SUPPLY HAS BEEN GRADUALLY INCREASED SINCE APRIL 25 BUT THAT IS NOT THE ANSWER TO LIQUIDITY PROBLEMS. WHAT MUST BE DONE IS TO ELIMINATE UNNECESSARY IMPORTS AND GIVE PRIORITY TO MEDIUM TERM CREDITS FOR PRODUCTIVE PURPOSES. ALSO, GET COMMERCIAL BANKS INVOLVED BY SETTING SIMILAR PRIORITIES FOR THEM.
- 4. ALMEIDA IS EXTREMELY BUSY WITH A STEADY STREAM OF VISITORS GOING THROUGH HIS OFFICE. HE IS GLIB, INTELLIGENT AND GENIAL AND SEEMS TO HAVE MADE A GOOD INITIAL IMPRESSION. THE HIGH COMMISSIONER TOLD ME HE PERSONALLY SELECTED ALMEIDA BECAUSE "HE IS ONE OF PORTUGAL'S BEST ECONOMISTS." THE HIGH COMMISSIONER CONSIDERS IT UNIMPORTANT THAT ALMEIDA HAS NO PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE IN OR ON ANGOLA.

KILLORAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: ECONOMIC CONDITIONS, POLICIES

Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 03 MAR 1975 Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960 Decaption Note: Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975I HANDA00233

Document Number: 1975LUANDA00233 Document Source: CORE Document Unique ID: 00

Drafter: n/a Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: N/A Errors: N/A

Film Number: D750074-0321

From: LUANDA

Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path:

Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750389/aaaadcer.tel Line Count: 85

Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM

Office: ACTION AF

Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2

Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Reference: n/a

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Authority: MorefiRH

Review Comment: n/a Review Content Flags: Review Date: 14 MAY 2003

Review Event:

Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 MAY 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <14 MAY 2003 by MorefiRH>

Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review

05 JÚL 2006

Review Media Identifier: Review Referrals: n/a Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: GOVERNMENT WORKS ON ECONOMIC GUIDELINES CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY TAGS: PDEV, ECON, PGOV, AO
To: STATE

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006